

**SPEECH GIVEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
DURING THE AWARD OF CHARTER ON FRIDAY, 16TH MAY 2008**

“Your Excellencies, President Mwai Kibaki, Your Excellency Hon. Daniel Arap Moi, the 2nd President of the Republic of Kenya, the Chairman of CHE, The Secretary of CHE, Vice Chancellor’s, Parents, Staff, Students, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Governing Council, Management and Board of Trustees, and on my own behalf, I wish to welcome you to this charter award ceremony.

I have been invited to welcome the Chancellor, His Excellency, Hon. Daniel T. Arap Moi but with your permission, Your Excellency, let me make a few remarks before I do so.

We thank God for this day and pray that He will continue to guide us to greater prosperity.

We also sincerely thank His Excellency the President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki and the government for granting us the Charter. We fully understand the responsibility that comes with the charter status and I wish to confirm to you Sir, that we are equal to the challenge.

Your Excellency Mr. President Sir, let me also thank the Commission for Higher Education for playing both a guiding and facilitative role since the University was granted the letter of interim authority in 2000. The Commission has made many visits to this university since then and has given us constructive advice on the various issues that we needed to fulfill before being granted this charter. I am therefore proud to say that this award of charter truly marks a seal of quality on the products of Kabarak University.

This award is a major boost in our endeavour to make quality university education accessible to the youth of this nation since our students will be able to access direct government support towards their studies through loans from the Higher Education Loans Board as well as bursaries. Your government, Your Excellency, has invested heavily in the education sector we shall continue to support this effort.

We wish to assure Your Excellency Mr. President and the nation at large that, on its part, Kabarak University will continue to offer quality education as well as provide the best environment for academic pursuit to all those who opt to pursue their studies at our institution.

Your Excellency Sir, with the rise in enrolment in secondary schools following the government’s provision of affordable secondary school education, finding college and university space in the public institutions will be come a major challenge in the near future. We therefore wish to commend your foresight in addressing some of those challenges by increasing the number of university colleges well in advance. Private universities can also play a significant role in addressing the challenge if they are given the necessary support.

In conclusion, Your Excellencies, I wish to challenge our universities to be more involved in the realization of the vision 2030. Charged with the responsibility of generating knowledge and training the required manpower, I call upon them to rise up to the challenge.

With those remarks, Your Excellencies, it is now my humble duty to invite our Chancellor, His Excellency, the 2nd President of the Republic of Kenya to address the gathering. Welcome Your Excellency."